

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 9-12, 21 and 22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 9-11 and 21 are amended and claims 1, 6-8, 13, 15, 16 and 19 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 2 and 3. All pending claims either previously depended from or are hereby amended to directly or indirectly depend from claim 2. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claims 4, 5, 9-12, 21 and 22 are also allowable.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,771,318 to Fang et al. ("Fang") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,467 to Asimopoulos et al. ("Asimopoulos"). The rejection is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claim 1.

Claims 13, 15, 16, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,091,862 to Okisu. The rejection of claims 13, 15, 16, and 19 is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of those claims. The rejection of claim 21 is rendered moot at least because claim 21 depends from allowed claim 2. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fang in view of Asimopoulos, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,253,046 to Shiraishi. The rejection of claims 6 and 7 is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of those claims. The rejection of claims 4 and 5 is rendered moot at least because claims 4 and 5 depend from allowed claim 2. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fang, Asimopoulos and Shiraishi, as applied to claim 6, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,040,858 to Ikeda. The rejection of claim 8 is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 8.

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fang and Asimopoulos, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Ikeda. The rejection of claims 9-11 is rendered moot at least because claims 9-11 depend from allowed claim 2. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fang, Asimopoulos and Ikeda, as applied to claim 11, and further in view of Shiraishi. The rejection of claims 12 is rendered moot at least because claim 12 depends from allowed claim 2. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fang and Okisu, as applied to claim 21 and further in view of well known prior art. The rejection of claim 22 is rendered moot at least because claim 22 depends from allowed claim 2. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Maryam M. Ipakchi
Registration No. 51,835

MAC:MMI/hs

Date: May 13, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461